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LETTER DATED 22 DECEMBER 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On 15 December 1992, Agence France Press transmitted information from inside Kuwait that revealed the allegations circulated by the Kuwaiti regime on the question of Kuwaiti missing persons. This information was contained in a report on the subject by a committee of the Kuwaiti National Assembly. The report admitted that "the credibility of the Kuwaiti Government has begun to dwindle, inasmuch as it is clear that some of those whose names were entered in the list of Kuwaiti missing persons are currently being held in Kuwaiti prisons or were killed during the military operations in the Gulf war". The report of the Kuwaiti National Assembly states that "the procedure of the Kuwaiti authorities has been characterized by inconsistency and clumsiness and by an attempt to exploit the issue of missing persons for political purposes. That has resulted in a weakening of the issue's credibility in all international forums and at the governmental and non-governmental levels". The report called for respect for human rights in Kuwait, pointing out that there were children under 16 years of age detained in the Talhah school in the Farwaniyah area, which is one of the deportation centres under the authority of the Ministry of the Interior.

This information, particularly since it emanates from an organ that constitutes an important part of the power structure in Kuwait, proves once again that the issue of Kuwaiti missing persons is intended to serve as a means of political blackmail for the purpose of prolonging the unjust embargo against Iraq.

Perhaps the most eloquent proof of the inconsistency of the allegations launched by the Kuwaiti authorities is the numbers cited in the lists of missing persons submitted by those authorities to Iraq through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). During the period from March 1991 to March 1992, Kuwait submitted seven lists with different figures, each time mentioning a number different from the preceding one, as follows:

- The first list contained 11,431 names and was submitted in April 1991.

- The second list contained 5,433 names and was submitted in May 1991.

- The third list contained 4,290 names and was submitted in June 1991.

- The fourth list contained 2,479 names and was submitted in September 1991.

- The fifth list contained 2,443 names and was submitted in October 1991.

- The sixth list contained 2,201 names and was submitted in March 1992.

- The seventh list contained 850 names and was submitted in March 1992.

It is now quite clear that this list too is like its predecessors. That has been ascertained in the basis of the information contained in the report of the Kuwaiti National Assembly.

As you are aware, Iraq has expressed its readiness, on many occasions and in numerous international forums, including the United Nations Secretariat, ICRC, the Non-Aligned Movement, the League of Arab States and the Security Council, to cooperate in the search for and identification of the missing persons, although it has repatriated all Kuwaitis and third country nationals present in its territory through ICRC.

The exposure of the tendentious political goals on which the allegations of the rulers of Kuwait were based and their inconsistency in submitting seven random lists assists greatly in bringing forth the truth and opening the way for closure of the file on section G of Security Council resolution 687 (1991), particularly since the information came from inside Kuwait.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative